MARVEL

021

AARON
SCHITI
GANDINI

The Mighty THOR®

STEP ASIDE, BOYS. LET THOR HANDLE THIS.

WHEN DR. JANE FOSTER LIFTS THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR, SHE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE GODDESS OF THUNDER, THE MIGHTY THOR! HER ENEMIES ARE MANY, AS ASGARD DESCENDS FURTHER INTO CHAOS AND WAR THREATENS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TEN REALMS. YET HER GREATEST BATTLE WILL BE AGAINST A FAR MORE PERSONAL FOE: THE CANCER THAT IS KILLING HER MORTAL FORM...

MALEKITH AND HIS ALLIES ARE WAGING WAR ACROSS THE TEN REALMS. AGENTS FROM MUSPELHEIM HAVE INVADED NIDAVELLIR, THE LAND OF THE DWARVES—WHERE LIGHT ELVES HAD TAKEN REFUGE AFTER MALEKITH DESTROYED THEIR HOME. MJOLNIR CALLED JANE TO ACTION, BUT SHE COLLAPSED BEFORE REACHING THE HAMMER; HER CANCER GROWS WORSE WITH EVERY TRANSFORMATION.

THE MUSPELHEIM RIDERS BOMBED THE REFUGEE CAMPS AND SET FIRE TO THE REALM. AMONG THE VICTIMS WAS A GROUP OF CHILDREN THAT VOLSTAGG HAD PLACED UNDER HIS PROTECTION. THE HORRIFIED VOLSTAGG EMERGED FROM THE FLAMES A NEW MAN—AND THE HAMMER OF THE ULTIMATE THOR, LEFT ON OLD ASGARD AFTER ITS BEARER'S DEATH, HEARD HIS CALL FOR VENGEANCE.

A NEW KIND OF THOR HAS RISEN. PREPARE TO BLEED.

THE WAR THOR

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NIDAVELLIR.

THE MOUNTAINS OF NIDAVELLIR ARE AS BIG AS MOONS AND AS OLD AS THE MOST ANCIENT OF STARS STILL TWINKLING IN THE HEAVENS.

TODAY THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE BURNING.

AND THE GREAT DWARF LORDS OF NIDAVELLIR, WHO ARE KNOWN FOR FORGING THE TOOLS OF WAR, ARE NOW BUSY PUTTING THEM TO USE.

SPOTTER TO MOUNT STEELSTORM! HERE COME OTHER WAVES! ALL DRAGON-GUNS OPEN FIRE!

"BLAST BUG-RIDING BASTARDS BACK TO MUSPELHEIM!"

HSSSS. RAIN ALL MAGGOT-BOMBS ON THOSE FLAME-DAMNED GUNS!

ALL HAIL THE QUEEN OF CINDERS! DEATH TO ALL THE UNBURNT!

SURTUR'S BONES, WHERE'D THIS FLAMING STORM COME FROM? CLOUDS ARE BLACK AS COAL. I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE FLAME-DAMNED MOUNTAINS NO MORE.

BAH! THOSE FLAMING DWARVES THINK THEY CAN SAVE THEIR FLAMING REALM WITH SOME FANCY FLAMING WEATHER WIZARDRY?

THIS...THIS AIN'T THE WORK OF DWARVES. MAYBE WE SHOULD--

WAAAHHH!!! HURRICANE WINDS!

MY FLAMING FLY JUST LOST HER HEAD!

MY FLAMING ARM!

THAT'S A BIG FLAMING STORM.

YEAH. AND THOSE ICE-BRAINED IDIOTS JUST FLEW RIGHT INTO IT.

HARD TO HEAR OVER THE THUNDER, BUT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SURE A LOTTA SCREAMING GOING ON UP THERE.

I GUESS WE CAN'T COUNT ON NO AIR COVER.

STUPID FIREFLY HOTSHOTS. HOPE THEY ALL FREEZE IN HEL.

WARS AREN'T WON IN THE SKY! THEY'RE WON ON THE FLAME-DAMNED GROUND!

AND TODAY WE WILL TAKE THIS SORRY, FLAMELESS CHUNK OF ROCK FROM THOSE PISSANT DWARVES, INCH BY BLOOD-DRENCHED INCH!

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF *SINDR, QUEEN OF MUSPELHEIM!*

ALL HAIL THE QUEEN OF CINDERS!

ALL HAIL THE--

THE END

THAT'S A BIG FLAMING DWARF.

WHATEVER THE HEL IT IS, BURN IT TO--

WHUUUH?

WHAAAAAHH!!!

KRUDDA-

DRROOOOOM

AAAGGGGH!!!

GRRRRGGH!!!

RRROOORR!

SURTUR'S BLAZING BONES.

YOU WANTED *WAR*, DID YOU NOT, SONS OF MUSPELL?

I WILL BE YOUR WAR.

KRRROOM

RAAARGH!

GUUGH!

UUGH!

THWK

THE LAST WAR YOU WILL *EVER* FIGHT.

THE GOD ONCE KNOWN AS VOLSTAGG HAD A HUNGER THAT WAS LEGENDARY THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.

A HUNGER THAT COULD NEVER BE SATED, NO MATTER HOW MUCH FOOD HE CONSUMED.

THE WAR THOR HUNGERS AS WELL.

AND THE MORE HE FEASTS ON THE BLOOD AND WAILS OF HIS ENEMIES...THE HUNGRIER HE GROWS.

THE TEN REALMS ARE RIFE WITH WAR, AND THIS THOR AND HIS STRANGE, OTHERWORLDLY MJOLNIR WILL NOT STOP...

...UNTIL THEY'VE EATEN IT ALL.

GAAGH!

MY, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

YET ANOTHER *NEW* THOR, IT WOULD APPEAR. THIS IS ALL GETTING A BIT RIDICULOUS NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?

AT LEAST *THIS* ONE HAS A BEARD.

LEAVE IT TO *ULIK*, THE KING OF THE TROLLS, TO BE SUCH A... *TROLL*.

JUST *KILL* HIM, ENCHANTRESS.

WE HAVE A REALM TO CONQUER. AND DWARVES TO GRIND BENEATH OUR HEELS.

MY COMRADE MAY BE A TROLL, BUT HE IS NOT WRONG. I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH ANY SECOND-RATE THORS.

OFF TO HEL YOU GO, THEN.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO *THUNDERSTRIKE*.

IMPOSSIBLE. HE DEFLECTED MY MAGIC.

WHAT... KIND OF A HAMMER IS THAT?

SEE FOR YOURSELF, WITCH.

AAAGH!

BAH, SO HE CAN BLOCK MAGIC. LET'S SEE HOW HE IS AT BLOCKING *FISTS!*

CRACK

SONUVA NORN...CRACKED MY DAMN KNUCKLEDUSTER ON YOUR...

WHAT IN THE HEL IS THAT BEARD MADE OF? URU?

RAGE.

GUGGH!

WAAAGH!

GET IT OFF!!!

RAGE AND PAIN AND FIRE AND THE BLOOD OF CHILDREN.

WAR.

I AM MADE OF WAR, LITTLE TROLL.

BECAUSE OF MONSTERS LIKE YOU.

AMORA AND I...ONLY HERE AS ADVISERS.

SINDR... IS THE ONE YOU WANT.

YES. THE FIRE QUEEN'S TIME WILL COME.

BUT RIGHT NOW, IT IS *YOURS*, KING ULIK.

MY LEGIONS OF TROLLS...WILL TEAR YOUR BLASTED BEARD OUT, HAIR BY HAIR...IF YOU DARE LAY ANOTHER HAND ON THEIR KING.

VERY WELL. MY FISTS HAVE DRANK THEIR FILL OF YOUR WRETCHED BLOOD.

NOW THE *HAMMER* WILL FEED.

UUGGH...

BITTERHAND... THE BLACK BIFROST...

RRRRRRGGGGH!!!

GET US OUT OF HERE.

DAMN *MALEKITH* AND HIS TRICKS. HIS TIME WILL COME AS WELL.

WE FELLED AN ENTIRE ARMY TODAY. BUT AYE, YOU ARE RIGHT, MJOLNIR...

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. NOW I...I MUST...

I MUST... STOP THIS. THIS KILLING.

THIS IS NOT WHO I...WHO...

WHO *AM* I...? I SEEM TO HAVE...

I AM THE THOR OF WAR!

THE GOD OF THE BLOODSTORM!

AND NOW, WARMONGERS OF THE REALMS...

"...NOW COMES THE RAIN!"

STORM IS GETTING WORSE.

YOU THINK SO, HUH, STONEFOOT?

YOU SHOULD TRY SEEING IT FROM UP HERE.

TELL WHAT ELSE YOU SEE, SENATOR SOLOMON. DWARF SPOTTERS SEE NOTHING. WHERE FIRE DEVILS GO?

STILL NO SIGN AT ALL OF THE BUG RIDER SWARM.

AND THE FIRE GOBLIN ARMY THAT WAS MASSING ON THE NORTHERN SALT FLATS...FROM WHAT I CAN SEE...

...THEY'RE COMPLETELY GONE. ALMOST AS IF...

UM... STONEFOOT... IS IT JUST ME...

...OR IS IT *RAINING BLOOD?*

AYE. AND NOT JUST ANY BLOOD. **FIRE DEMON** BLOOD!

BLOOD RAIN PUTTING OUT FIRES ALL ALONG SKORNHEIM MOUNTAINS! HOW THIS POSSIBLE?

I DON'T KNOW...

...BUT I THINK I JUST FOUND THE GUY WHO DOES.

HEY! YOU WITH THE HAMMER! PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!

LADY SOLOMON.

THAT'S *ME!* WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU?!*

SCREAMS.

WHAT?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THIS STORM! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRE GOBLINS?!

NO STORM IS LOUD ENOUGH TO DROWN OUT THE SCREAMS.

THE SCREAMS OF THE CHILDREN AS THEY BURNED IN MY ARMS.

CHILDREN? DID YOU SAY...

WAIT, THAT BEARD... ARE YOU...

SENATOR VOLSTAGG?

VOLSTAGG, WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HAMMER?

THE FIRE IS STILL BURNING. THE FIRE *SHE* STARTED.

THE QUEEN. *THE QUEEN OF CINDERS.* WHERE DO I FIND THE...

MUSPELHEIM.

VOLSTAGG! WAIT, DON'T--!

WAR IS COMING TO THE LAND OF FIRE.

STORM GONE. FIRES OUT. WHAT HAPPEN UP THERE?

I'M NOT SURE, STONEFOOT. BUT I THINK THERE'S A GOD WHO NEEDS OUR HELP.

"AND I THINK WE'D BETTER FIND *THOR*."

HELP!

ASGARDIA.

THE HALL OF MEDICINE AND SPIRITUAL HEALING.

WE REQUIRE ASSISTANCE HERE! *AT ONCE!*

ODINSON? WHAT HAS--

HEALERS! BRING ALL THE HEALERS YOU CAN FIND!

JANE FOSTER IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF CARE!

YOU.

NO. NOT MAGIC.

YOU ARE DYING, JANE FOSTER. I CAN FEEL THE LIFE DRAINING OUT OF YOU AS WE SPEAK.

I DO NOT CARE WHAT IT TAKES TO SAVE YOU, WE HAVE TO--

MJOLNIR. GIVE ME MY...

NO! YOU STAY AWAY FROM HER, MJOLNIR!

YOU ARE THE CAUSE OF THIS SUFFERING! YOU ARE THE REASON SHE IS DYING!

GO TO HEL AND LEAVE HER BE, YOU BLASTED MALLET!

TROUBLE. THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE REALMS. HAVE TO--

NO!

JANE?

NO, JANE FOSTER, YOU CANNOT...

JANE!!!

"THERE IS TROUBLE IN THE REALMS," THE HAMMER WHISPERS.

AND JANE FOSTER ANSWERS WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

THAT IS WHY SHE IS WORTHY TO BE THOR, THE GODDESS OF THUNDER.

AND WHY SHE WILL SOON BE DEAD.

TO BE CONTINUED.

AND LO, THERE CAME THE... HAMMER GRAMS

SEND LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, DON'T FORGET TO MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!

SAVE YOUR TEARS, WARRIORS. THE ULTIMATE JUDGMENT IS COMING, BUT WE HAVE A LOT OF STORY TO TELL FIRST. AND MUCH BLOOD TO SPILL. THE WAR THOR WILL NOT REST WHILE THERE IS VENGEANCE TO BE HAD.

BUT WHEN JANE FINDS OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER GOOD FRIEND VOLSTAGG, SHE'S NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY. THERE ARE TEN REALMS TO SAVE—BUT CAN SHE SAVE HER FRIEND, TOO?

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE: IT'S GONNA BE A TALE FOR THE AGES. AND JUDGING BY THE LETTERS THAT POURED IN THIS MONTH, YOU'RE ALL LOVING IT.

HAIL NOBLE FOLKS,

SO I DON'T CARE IF THIS IS PUBLISHED OR NOT, I JUST WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANY MEANING BEHIND THE SYMBOL ON JANE'S HELMET?

LOVE WHAT YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN DOING. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MORE OF ODINSON AND JANE WORKING TOGETHER!

MANY THANKS,
HIKER JIMBOB

HI JIMBOB,

THERE'S NO PARTICULAR MEANING BEHIND THE SYMBOL, BUT I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT IT'S VERY MUCH IN KEEPING WITH ASGARDIAN DESIGN. ESAD RIBIC, WHO WORKED ON THE GOD OF THUNDER SERIES, DESIGNED JANE FOSTER'S LOOK, INCLUDING THAT HELMET. HE'S AN INCREDIBLE TALENT WHO CONTINUES TO COLLABORATE WITH US ON OCCASION. THANKS FOR WRITING IN! AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE ODINSON AND JANE—THERE'S SOME EXCITING STUFF COMING DOWN THE BIFROST!

HOW'S IT SWINGING, HAMMER FOLKS?

DUE TO SOME SHIPPING ISSUES, I GOT MY LATEST TWO ISSUES OF THE MIGHTY THOR AT THE SAME TIME (#17 AND #18). IN SOME WAYS THAT WAS BETTER BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF A RATHER GOOD STORY! TO BE HONEST, WHAT I ENJOYED MOST WAS SEEING THE SHI'AR GET THEIR BUTTS KICKED BY THE DESTROYER AND SHARRA AND K'YTHRI GET THEIR FACES SMASHED IN BY SOME ASGARDIANS AND THE MIGHTY THOR. SOMETIMES YA JUST GOTTA SEE FOLKS KNOCKED OFF THEIR HIGH HORSES. AND WAS THAT MANGOG WE SAW AT THE END OF ISSUE #17? NICE, AND SO KIRBYESQUE! IT REMINDS ME THAT *THOR: RAGNAROK* IS COMING.

ALAN BOWMAN
SAGA CITY, JAPAN

HEY ALAN,

THAT WAS INDEED THE MANGOG! THE LIVING INCARNATION OF VENGEANCE. OR, IN SHARRA AND K'YTHRI'S WORDS, THE ULTIMATE JUDGMENT! THAT SPLASH PAGE WAS JUST A TEASE; HIS STORY IS COMING, AND IT'S GOING TO BE WILD—JUST LIKE THAT *RAGNAROK* TRAILER. I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS EXCITED FOR A MOVIE IN A LONG TIME. THAT FILM LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE ABOUT AS METAL AS THE STORY WE'VE BEEN TELLING HERE. THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS!

DEAR THE MIGHTY THOR TEAM,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS BRAVE AND BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED SERIES. I'LL ADMIT, ALTHOUGH I'VE KNOWN AND BEEN A CASUAL FAN OF THOR FOR A LONG TIME, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN FOLLOWING A THOR RUN SO CLOSELY AND PICKING UP EACH ISSUE...AND I'M SO GLAD I STARTED WITH JANE FOSTER'S THOR. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO WRITE TO YOU GUYS SINCE THE SERIES STARTED, BUT JANE'S STORY HAD SUDDENLY BECOME SO PERSONAL TO ME THAT I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO ARTICULATE JUST HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR ALL THE EFFORTS PUT INTO THE MIGHTY THOR.

MY MUM WAS DIAGNOSED WITH TERMINAL BRAIN CANCER AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE NEW THOR WAS JANE FOSTER—WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO HAVE CANCER. I HAD MY SUSPICIONS THAT IT WAS HER BEFORE THE REVEAL, AND I KEPT SAYING TO MYSELF, "IF IT'S HER, THEN I'LL QUIT READING." I HAD TO WATCH MY OWN MUM GO THROUGH THIS HELL, I DIDN'T WANT MY MUCH-NEEDED ESCAPISM TO REMIND ME OF IT, TOO... BUT THEN IT WAS CONFIRMED—THE REVEAL HAPPENED. AND INSTEAD OF DREAD, I SUDDENLY FELT INSPIRED. I FELT HOPE. AFTER SEEING HOW HARD THOR FOUGHT, AND THEN FINDING OUT THAT IT WAS JANE—WHO NEVER LET HER CONDITION HOLD HER BACK...I STILL HAVE THAT PAGE BURNED INTO MY MIND: A FRAIL JANE COLLAPSED ON THE FLOOR, CLUTCHING AT HER CHEST AND DECLARING THAT SHE'LL CONTINUE TO FIGHT EVEN THOUGH IT'S KILLING HER.

MY MUM'S BRAVERY AND STRENGTH MATCHES THAT OF JANE FOSTER. NO MATTER HOW MUCH LIFE KEEPS TRYING TO DRAG HER DOWN, SHE FIGHTS AND FIGHTS AND FIGHTS. JUST LIKE JANE.

NOT ONLY IS JANE'S STORY A PERSONAL ONE FOR MYSELF, BUT THE FACT THAT THE POWERS THAT BE EVEN TOOK A CHANCE WITH THIS SERIES IS HISTORY BEING MADE—AND HISTORY IS IN GREAT HANDS. THANK YOU AGAIN!

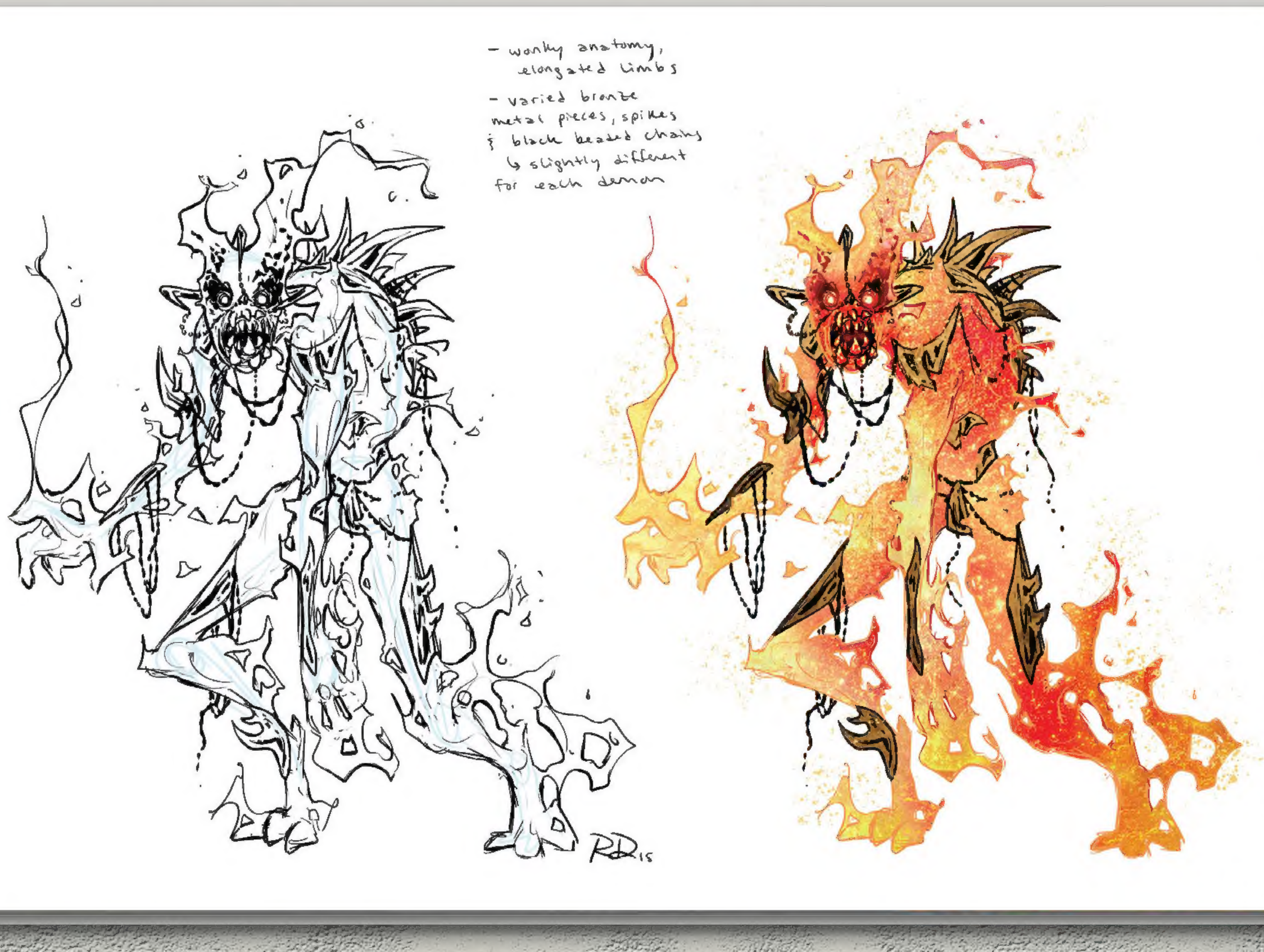
ALL MY LOVE AND RESPECT,
MARLA

HI MARLA,

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE FOR ESCAPE FROM THE PRESSURES OF LIFE THROUGH READING—I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HAPPY READS MYSELF. BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU STUCK WITH IT AND FOUND HOPE THROUGH THIS STORY. "INSPIRATION" IS KIND OF THE MARVEL M.O.—WE'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO FIND THE HEROIC IN THE HARDEST TIMES, BOTH FOR OUR READERS AND THE CHARACTERS THEMSELVES. YOUR MOM SOUNDS LIKE A BADASS, AND STORIES LIKE THESE ARE WHAT WE LIVE FOR.

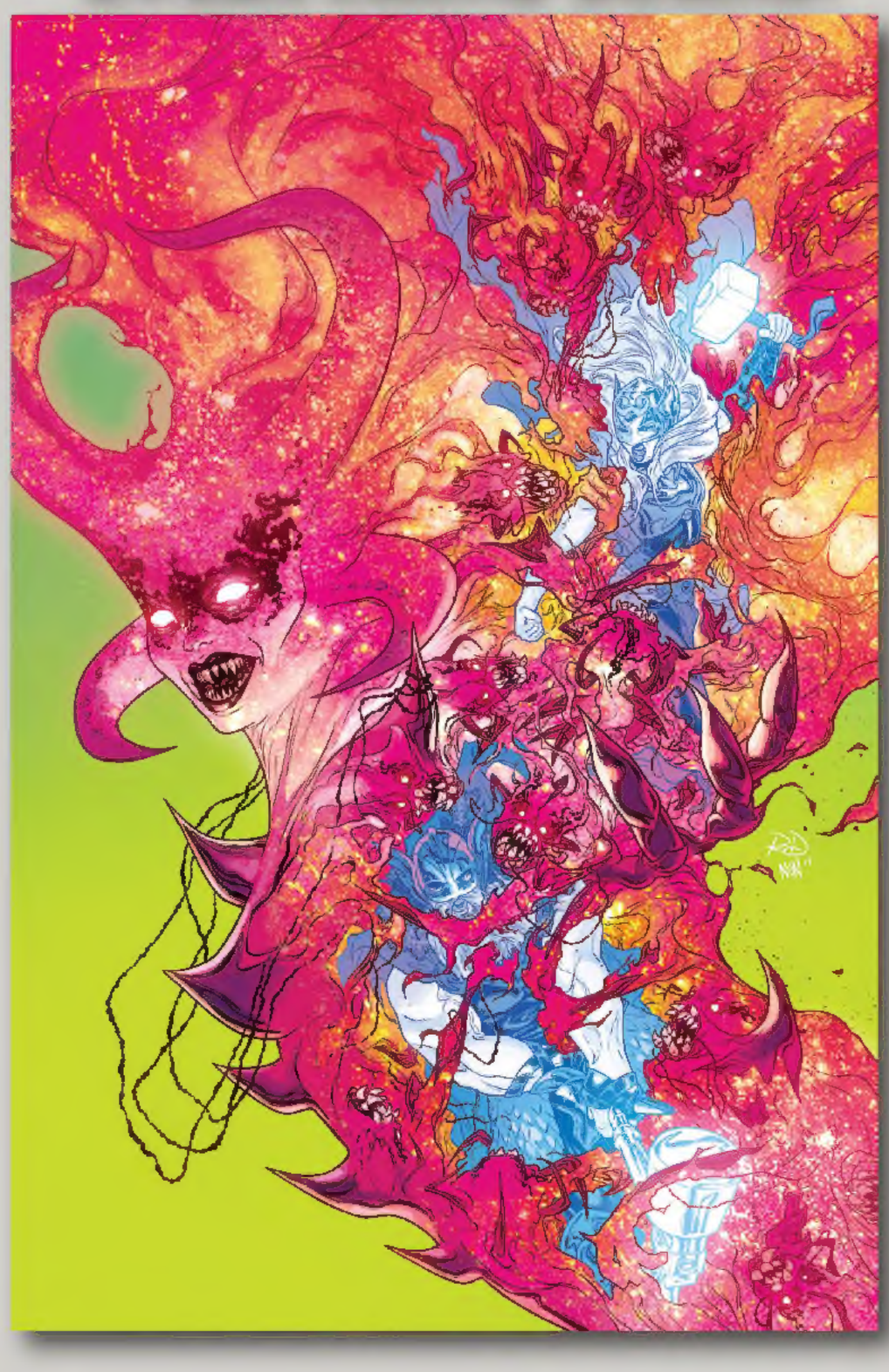
NEXT MONTH: WITH HER ARMIES FAILING, THE QUEEN OF CINDERS TAKES ACTION—AND ONLY THE THORS STAND IN HER WAY. JOIN US NEXT TIME AS EVERYTHING BURNS! FOR A TASTE OF THE FIRE, TAKE A LOOK AT RUSSELL'S STELLAR FIRE DEMON DESIGNS!

'TIL THEN,
SARAH

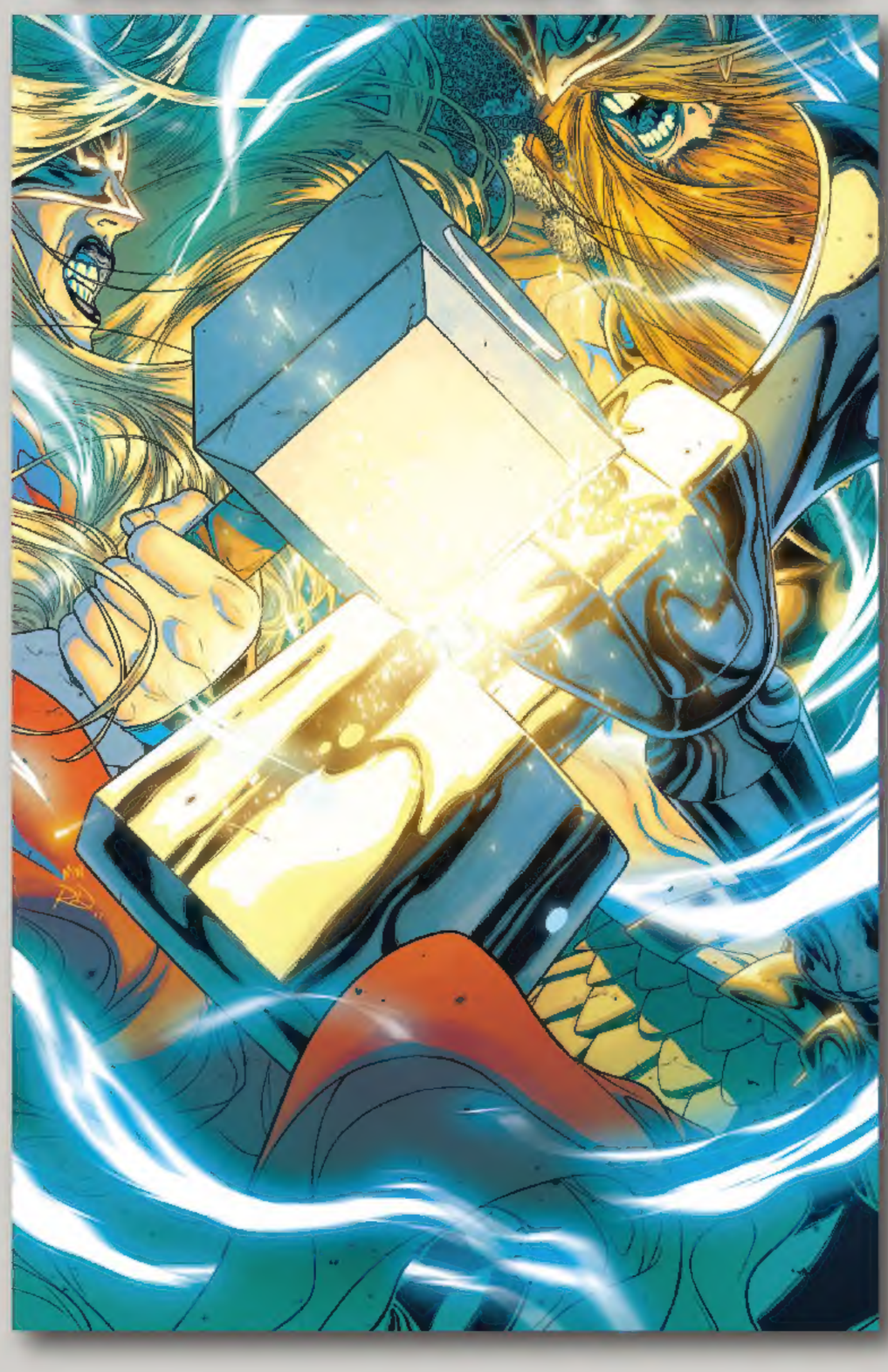


NEXT:

THE MIGHTY THOR #22
EVERYTHING BURNS!



THE MIGHTY THOR #23
THOR AGAINST THOR!



THE MIGHTY THOR #700
"LEGACY" BEGINS: THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY THOR!

ZONE